

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Volksrat and DWK Plans for
Distribution of Functions

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Secretariat of the People's Council began in November to form a "Peace Bureau" under the Committee on Peace Questions, with the objective of preparing the way for the diplomatic representation of Germany abroad. This bureau is supposed to expand gradually into a full-fledged diplomatic corps, and former members of the German Foreign Office are being recruited to staff it under the direction of such men as Dr. Karl Polack, Dr. Leo Zuckermann, and Dr. Karl-Heinz Gerstner. The strictly commercial and consular functions of a foreign service will not be handled by the Peace Bureau, but will be taken care of by branches of the "German" Economic Commission (DWK). The latter will, in the future, confine itself more and more to executive functions, while the "People's Congress" and its subsidiaries are to develop into a sort of legislature. Source states that the growing importance of the Volkskongress movement is indicated by the publicity given to the German delegation to Moscow early in November: they were sent as representatives of the political parties and other organizations, but while they were in Moscow their designation was changed and (somewhat to their own surprise) they were described as representatives of the Volksrat instead; it was under this appellation that they were welcomed upon their return to Berlin.

25X1A6a [REDACTED] Comment: Two other sources have emphasized this change in designation and the surprise it occasioned among the delegates.)

2. In view of the proposed distribution of functions described above, it is clear that the expansion of the DWK (brought about by SMA Order #183) does not mean that the DWK will compete with the Volksrat. Source explains that the DWK is conceived to be the political representative of the Eastern Zone, while the Volksrat functions for all of Germany. The liaison between the two bodies will, however, continue to be very close, and Heinrich Rau, President of the DWK, will report periodically to the Volksrat and execute its instructions. It is also to be noted that many individuals are members of both bodies. The new plenum of the DWK is expected to eliminate excessive bureaucracy in the DWK and to act as a "watch-dog", making certain that the instructions of

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3. Important organizational changes affecting the Volksrat were considered at a conference on 27 November. These changes would envision an inner and an expanded secretariat, in both of which the management of affairs would remain in the hands of Bernhard Mutius and Friedrich Otto.
4. Some time ago the SMA asked the SED to prepare a summary of relevant portions of the Italian peace treaty, presumably as a model for a treaty with Germany. However, the SED was not anxious to seem responsible for any of the individual treaty clauses which may well be unpopular in Germany, and, after meeting the request only with evasions, finally produced a proclamation in the most general terms, which was published on 25 November. ("Schliesst Frieden mit Deutschland!", alleged to have been written by Dr. Leo Zuckermann.)

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